

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, AFIN, IAEA
SUBJECT: IAEA CY 1975 BUDGET - TARGET FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

REF: IAEA VIENNA 2868

1. SUMMARY: SITUATION REGARDING TARGET FOR 1975 HIGHLY FLUID;
LDC'S APPEAR TO BE HOLDING FIRM LINE FOR \$6-MILLION,
AND INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS WHICH HAS NORMALLY SETTLED
SUCH ISSUES APPEARS TO HAVE BROKEN DOWN ON HARD FACT THAT LEADING
LDC'S DO NOT RPT NOT APPEAR READY TO CONSULT WITH EITHER DONORS
OR SECRETARIAT ON THIS ISSUE. TACTICAL SITUATION AT COMMITTEE
UNCLEAR, BUT MISSION FORESEES LIKELIHOOD OF NO RPT NO
AGREEMENT ON TARGET, LEAVING QUESTION FOR JUNE BOARD TO SETTLE.
AT THIS TIME, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT US ACCEPT SUCH OUTCOME IN
PREFERENCE TO ANY RECOMMENDATION FOR TARGET OVER \$4-MILLION,
AND FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT US TAKE STRONG LINE THAT THERE IS
EVERY CHANCE THAT US WOULD NOT RPT NOT CONTRIBUTE AT OR ABOVE
BASE RATE OF ASSESSMENT APPLIED TO ANY TARGET OVER \$4-MILLION
FOR 1975, SAYING THIS PRIVATELY TO LDC'S AND, IF REQUIRED
OR DESIRABLE, PUBLICLY AT COMMITTEE MEETING. ACTION REQUESTED:
INSTRUCTIONS FOR A&B COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 8. END SUMMARY.

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2. LDC CAUCUS, WHICH HAS BECOME REGULAR FEATURE PRIOR TO IAEA BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MET THURSDAY, MARCH 29. OUR SCANTY INFORMATION INDICATES THAT LDC'S HAVE DECIDED TO GO INTO A&B COMMITTEE WITH FIRM LINE IN SUPPORT OF \$6-MILLION TARGET FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, WHICH THEY SURFACED AT TAC MEETING IN NOVEMBER. OUR INFORMANTS TELL US THAT THEY AGREED THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO FALBACK POSITION FROM THIS PRIOR TO COMMITTEE MEETING. LEADING FIGURE IS REPORTEDLY INDIAN AMBASSADOR (JAIPAL), WITH USUALLY MORE RADICAL INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING HIS LEAD. SOME OTHER LDC'S APPEAR PRIVATELY WILLING TO FIND WAY TO CLIMB DOWN FROM TREE THEY ARE UP, BUT BARRING IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION OF OPEN CONFLICT OF LDC'S ON RECORD ON ISSUE SUCH AS THIS, THERE IS NO RPT NO WAY THEY CAN DO THIS AS LONG AS SOMEONE WITH STATURE OF INDIAN AMBASSADOR MAINTAINS FIRM \$6-MILLION LINE.

3. SINCE LDC CAUCUS MEETING, INDIANS HAVE PLAYED CARDS VERY CLOSE TO CHEST IN INFORMAL CONVERSTATIONS WITH OTHER MISSIONS AND SECRETARIAT, AND IN PRE-COMMITTEE CONSULTATION ON 1975 BUDGET WITH ACTING DG HALL. WITH HALL THEY SAID THAT LDC POSITION ON TARGET CLEAR FROM EARLIER MEETINGS AND THEY DID NOT RPT NOT PROPOSE DISCUSS IT FURTHER (NOT DID THEY DO SO). POSITION WITH OTHERS WAS SUMMED UP BY ONE FRUSTRATED SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL AS "IT IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS WHAT WE WILL SAY AT COMMITTEE." I HAVE FOUND JAIPAL ELUSIVE IN MY ATTEMPTS TO SEE HIM, BUT WHEN I DO I FEAR THAT RESULTS MAY WELL BE NO BETTER. PROCESS OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WHICH NORMALLY RESOLVED ISSUES SUCH AS THIS ONE IN IAEA PRIOR TO FORMAL MEETINGS TOOK SERIOUS BEATING IN DISCUSSION OF TARGET LAST YEAR. THIS PROCESS NOW APPEARS TO BE BREAKING DOWN ENTIRELY, DESPITE EFFORTS OF OURSELVES AND OTHERS TO OPEN DIALOGUE.

4. MOST DONORS AND SECRETARIAT (AND ONE OR TWO LONG-TIME LDC REPS) APPEAR QUITE CONCERNED OVER ABSENCE OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WHICH HAVE LONG OILED MACHINERY OF FORMAL IAEA MEETINGS, BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE MUCH IDEA OF WHAT CAN BE DONE EXCEPT TO CONTINUE TRYING TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH INDIANS PRIOR TO COMMITTEE; MISSION INTENDS TO MAKE STATEMENT AT COMMITTEE EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN AT THIS TURN OF EVENTS IN IAEA.

5. TACTICAL SITUATION THIS YEAR IS COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNLIKE LAST YEAR WHEN DG PRINTED \$3-MILLION FIGURE IN BUDGET DOCUMENT, DG PUT BLANK IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET, THUS REQUIRING SOME FORMAL COMMITTEE AND/OR BOARD DECISION AS TO WHAT NUMBER TO INSERT RATHER THAN BEING ABLE TO SIMPLY ROLL CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF DG'S PRINTED FIGURE OVER ANY OPPOSITION TO IT.

6. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND IN VIEW TACK INDIANS

ARE TAKING, MISSION FORESEES EVERY CHANCE THAT COMMITTEE WILL BE UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A FIGURE FOR TARGET FOR 1975, AND THAT COMMITTEE REPORT WILL HAVE TO CONSIST OF STATEMENT THAT NO AGREEMENT POSSIBLE AND REFERRAL OF RECORD TO JUNE BOARD FOR RESOLUTION OF QUESTION. AS REPORTED REFTEL, WHILE SOME OTHER DONORS MIGHT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT TARGET HIGHER THAN \$4-MILLION, WHETHER OR NOT THEY INTENDED TO CONTRIBUTE TO IT, OUR FEELING IS THAT THERE IS NO RPT NO WAY THAT A GENERAL CONSENSUS COULD BE REACHED ON \$6-MILLION.

7. ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING HEAVY DEMANDS WHICH MISSION CAN FORESEE FOR US CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND FUNDS DURING 1975, MISSION FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE OF US, AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE AND IN THIS ATMOSPHERE, TO APPEAR TO AGREE IN ANY WAY TO MAKE CASH CONTRIBUTION IN AMOUNT REACHED BY APPLYING US BASE RATE OF ASSESSMENT TO ANY TARGET OVER \$4-MILLION. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT US TAKE THIS POSITION AT COMMITTEE MEETING, AND IF NECESSARY ACCEPT COMMITTEE REPORT INDICATING INABILITY TO REACH AGREEMENT RATHER THAN CONCUR AT THIS TIME IN ANY TARGET OF MORE THAN \$4-MILLION. FURTHER, MISSION FEELS THAT WE SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO INDICATE THAT WE ARE EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL THAT OUR AUTHORITIES WOULD CONTRIBUTE ON SAME BASIS AS IN PAST TOWARD TARGET IN EXCESS OF \$4-MILLION PRIVATELY IN CONSULTATIONS AND ON RECORD AT COMMITTEE IF TACTICAL SITUATION AT THE TIME REQUIRES IT. PORTER

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